

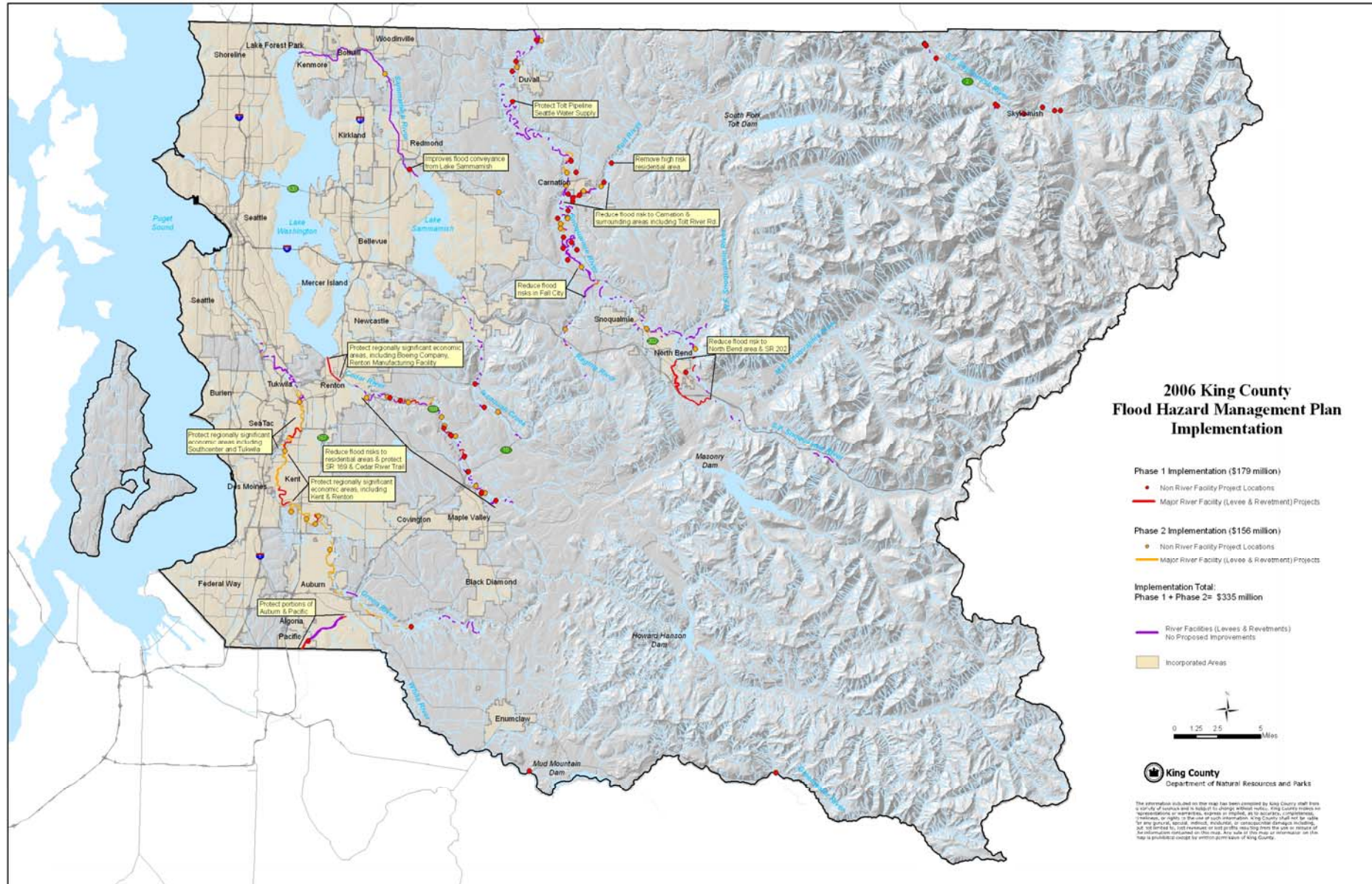
2006 King County Flood Hazard Management Plan

Presentation to the
Growth Management & Natural
Resources Committee
July 11, 2006

Introduction

- Overview of regional flood hazards
- Current County Flood Protection Programs
- Countywide flood control zone district to address hazards
- Public process and timeline

Flooding is a Regional Hazard



Flooding is a Regional Hazard

- Since 1990, King County has been declared a federal disaster area seven times.
- Flooding occurs along all six major river systems in King County: South Fork Skykomish, Snoqualmie, Sammamish, Cedar, Green, and White Rivers.
- Warmer winters are predicted to exacerbate flooding in the future.

Types of Flooding Hazards in King County

Inundation (bank overtopping)



Channel Migration (bank erosion)



Snoqualmie River



Raging River



Rainbow Bend Cedar River



River Bend Mobile Home Park Cedar River



Renton Airport Cedar River



City of Kent Green River



What is at Risk?

- People and property in the floodplain of approximately 37,000 acres
- Assessed valuation of more than \$7 billion
- Major employers such as Boeing and Southcenter
- Critical public infrastructure such as transportation corridors and Seattle's Tolt Water Supply Pipeline – providing 30% of Seattle's water

Flood Hazard Management Projects and Programs

- Capital improvement projects
- River and land use planning and mapping
- Flood hazard education
- Flood warning and emergency response
- Citizen inquiries and investigations
- Interlocal coordination
- Eligibility and discounts on flood insurance

Levees are the Weak Link

- More than 500 aging flood protection structures:
 - Many more than 40 years old
 - Constructed with over-steepened banks that are prone to slumping
 - Unstable fill material such as sand
 - Designed to protect open fields – not high-tech commercial infrastructure
 - In need of significant repair

Recent Record Rainfall Uncovered Numerous Levee Deficiencies



Funding Gap for Levee Repair

- Existing Revenue Sources: \$3.5 million/yr
 - River Improvement Fund
 - Green River Flood Control Zone District
 - Inter-County River Improvement Fund
- Current need up to \$35 million/yr to correct critical problems

Existing County Flood Protection

- County authorized by State law to provide flood protection
- King County Comprehensive Plan identifies flood warning and flood hazard management as a regional service
- For the past 50 years King County has played a regional role in protecting public health and safety

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Capital improvement projects

- Levee and revetment repair and replacement
- Home elevations
- Acquisition of repetitive loss properties

Floodplain management programs

- Flood Warning Center and emergency response
- Public education and outreach
- Mapping and technical studies
- Citizen inquires and public response
- Partnerships with state and federal agencies

2006 King County Flood Hazard Management Plan

- Proactive approach to ensuring that we invest in public safety and safeguard regional prosperity
- Provides benefits throughout the region
- High CRS rating provides businesses and homeowners 35% discount on flood insurance

2006 King County Flood Hazard Management Plan

- Provides up to \$350M in critical infrastructure improvements
- \$15-30 annual cost for owner of a \$300,000 home
- Includes specific, cost-effective projects to repair aging facilities

Protect Regional Infrastructure

- \$2.36 million for protection of Tolt Pipeline which serves 30% of Seattle's drinking water supply.
- \$40 million to repair lower Green River levees, which protect Boeing Aerospace Center, South Center and other major economic and employment centers.
- \$7.78 million to rebuild and strengthen levees to protect homes and businesses in the City of North Bend.
- \$4.82 million for periodic gravel removal along lower Cedar River to reduce flooding for Renton Municipal Airport, Boeing and downtown Renton.

Major Maintenance, Repair and CIP Projects



Levee repair project on the Green River



Meadowbrook biostabilization
project on Snoqualmie River



Elevated home near
Snoqualmie River



Narita Levee setback and
biostabilization project on
Green River

Flood Control Zone District Can Provide Needed Levee Funding

Three components of implementation

- Flood Control Zone District Intent Ordinance
- Plan adoption
- Formation of the Flood Control Zone District

Flood Control Zone District Notice of Intent Ordinance

- Under State law, first step in the process of creating a flood control zone district
- Sets a hearing for public testimony on formation of a district
- Adoption is time sensitive
- Adoption starts boundary review process
- Does not commit Council to any future course of action

Flood Control Zone District

Steps and Timeline

- Intent Ordinance adopted to set public hearing
- Boundary review process begins (approx. 5 months)
- Public hearing scheduled on Intent Ordinance
- Transmittal of Formation Ordinance (Summer '06)
- Ongoing public outreach
- Formation Ordinance adopted early 2007
- Levy rate set in conjunction with 2007 budget
- Levy effective January 1, 2008
- Capital improvements authorized

Conclusion

- King County is not immune from the problems of New Orleans.
- Our levees need additional funding.
- Residents and businesses benefit directly from King County's flood protection efforts.
- Adoption of the Intent Ordinance is the first step in solving the problem by allowing for public input.

Conclusion

“We live in a region with the potential of natural disasters that can be exacerbated by inadequate infrastructure. It makes sense to invest in safeguards now instead of paying for widespread destruction later. New Orleans taught us that.”

-- Seattle Times Editorial Board, July 10, 2006